

From: Joyce Smith
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 8:45pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

With a potential settlement in the Microsoft case, I wanted to voice my position of support on ending further litigation by completing the deal.

The antitrust lawsuit was misguided from the start, caused by rivals who only have themselves to blame for their lack of headway in the industry.

The growing pattern of government intervention in the business community was evident with the tobacco lawsuit, where states joined a giant money-grab because they don't like the results of people's individual choices. This time, people have made the choice of Microsoft as their preferred software maker and delivered them with a dominant market share, so the government sees an opportunity to make money by punishing a company in the name of competition. The deal offers computer makers open access to selecting the software providers of their choice and will be constantly monitored by a group of experts, so Microsoft's rivals should declare this a victory and start creating products that consumers want.

I ask that you go ahead with this proposal and let Microsoft continue to be a strong advocate for innovation in the PC industry, as our economy and financial markets could definitely use the boost. It is time to leave government on the sideline and let the litigation be ended. Thank you for hearing my feedback.

Sincerely,

Joyce Smith